

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Macedonia
Program Title:	Social Transition
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	165-0340
Status:	Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation:	\$7,275,000 AEEB
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation:	\$8,345,000 AEEB
Year of Initial Obligation:	2001
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2006

Summary: The USAID program helps to mitigate the social impacts of the transition by improving the quality of basic education and improving higher education institutions to better prepare youth for employment. Activities address problem solving, critical thinking, and Information Technology (IT) skills among teachers and students; access to education for marginalized groups; professionalization of local school administration; and better links between vocational schools and the job market.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2005 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$6,175,000 AEEB). IT literacy in primary and secondary schools is extremely limited and internet penetration in Macedonia remains among the lowest in the region at 4%. USAID has installed computer labs in all 90 secondary schools and trained teachers in the use of IT skills. In FY 2005, USAID will install computer labs in over 300 primary schools and continue to train primary and secondary teachers how to integrate IT into the curriculum. USAID will increase student and teacher access to information by developing a nationwide broadband internet network and providing broadband internet access to all 430 primary and secondary schools throughout the country. Grantees are: Academy for Education Development (prime); American Institute for Research (prime); Education Development Center (prime), World Links (sub).

FY 2005 is the last year of implementation of the Creative Teaching and Learning Project. Through this project, USAID will establish media labs and train school teams in using IT in six general secondary schools and 15 primary schools in Macedonia. School leaders will be introduced to new methodologies, and the program will offer extra-curricular activities to promote students' active involvement in a pluralistic society based on the rule of law. Principal Grantee: Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia.

Through the Secondary Education Activity, USAID will continue to build relationships between vocational schools and businesses to make vocational education more relevant to the job market. In FY 2005, real firms, virtual firms, and career centers will be created at each of the 50 selected vocational schools to strengthen linkages between business communities and vocational secondary schools and prepare more than 15,000 students for future employment. Improvements in school administration will be achieved through the implementation of a School Director Certification Program for all secondary school directors. Grantees: American Institute for Research (AIR) (prime), International Reading Association (sub).

Roma children continue to have the lowest enrollment and completion rates among children in Macedonia. USAID will provide support to Roma children from pre-school through secondary school in five selected centers in Macedonia. USAID will also help increase Roma matriculation by providing 200 scholarships for freshmen entering secondary schools and 50 university students. Through partnership with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, 80 more scholarships will be provided in the 2004-2005 school year. Grantee: Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia.

Improve Institutions of Higher Education (\$1,100,000 AEEB). Technical assistance will continue to the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, private South East European University (SEEU). However, as SEEU has consistently achieved enrollment targets and multi-ethnic population is increasing, future USAID support will be focused more on increasing quality rather than on access for students. FY 2005 support will focus on improving the quality of teaching at the business and computer science and technology faculties through the Higher Education Linkage Activity (HELA). HELA will assist with curriculum and faculty development, train master degree fellows, and promote linkages with Macedonian businesses through USAID's E-Biz Resource Center at SEEU. Grantee: Indiana University.

FY 2006 Program: Improve the Quality of Basic Education (\$6,695,000 AEEB). Previously, USAID programs focused on installing IT equipment in the schools and providing access to new tools such as internet and project-based learning methods. In FY 2006, the focus must shift to expanding IT integration into curricula at all levels and insuring that all teachers and students have the access and ability to use modern technology for learning. To this end, USAID will continue to provide broadband internet to all primary and secondary schools. IT Teacher training will also be expanded to include primary school teachers.

School Director Certification training will be expanded to include all primary school directors as well as a pool of potential school directors. USAID will also continue to provide technical assistance to real and virtual firms in secondary vocational schools started in FY 2005.

Increased retention and academic success of Roma will continue to be a USAID priority in FY 2006. As a result of the first year of implementation, increased interest for education from preschool to tertiary level is anticipated among Roma. USAID will continue to provide a preparatory program for preschool children, tutoring for primary school students, as well as scholarship and mentoring support for secondary and university Roma students. Girl's participation will be emphasized. Teachers in targeted areas will also receive anti-prejudice training to reduce the current bias against Roma children. Wider donor and host government support is expected for Roma inclusion as a result of the USAID Roma Education Program and the Roma Decade initiative.

Improving Institutions of Higher Education (\$1,650,000 AEEB). The HELA program will also develop an IT skills certificate and dual degree programs in the computer and business faculties at SEEU, and will support internship programs for students.

The contractors and grantees for FY 2006 are expected to be the same as for FY 2005.

Performance and Results: USAID projects established computer and media labs in 100 secondary schools and 30 primary schools and started IT integration in schools by training 80 master trainers. Student-centered teaching methods and computer skills were introduced to approximately 1,000 teachers and administrators in primary and secondary schools. USAID also provided training in project-based learning and critical thinking, and helped re-establish links between vocational schools and the businesses they serve.

Through USAID efforts, laws requiring all primary and secondary school directors to be professionally certified were passed and a new director certification program was established. This new requirement depoliticizes and professionalizes school administration.

With the support of USAID, enrollment at South East European University exceeded 5,000. Non-ethnic Albanian enrollment is now at 20%, up from 9% in FY 2003.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Macedonia

165-0340 Social Transition	AEEB
Through September 30, 2003	
Obligations	14,116
Expenditures	3,318
Unliquidated	10,798
Fiscal Year 2004	
Obligations	8,200
Expenditures	8,304
Through September 30, 2004	
Obligations	22,316
Expenditures	11,622
Unliquidated	10,694
Prior Year Unobligated Funds	
Obligations	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA	
Obligations	7,275
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005	
Obligations	7,275
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA	
Obligations	8,345
Future Obligations	0
Est. Total Cost	37,936